

4/16/70

Dear Mary,

When the check returns you will know it went to my photo shop. I am hoping sometime soon you can be here to see on what it was invested. I think you will consider it a rather good one. It represents the successful end to a rather difficult struggle that, however, was not as long as so many. Were there any chance of its use, of its getting attention, it would be the glittering end. It is, really, that significant. I am assuming you take no offense at the ellipsis and understand its motive. I have an expert who will assure you it is not paranoia. Name of Schooner.

Since I'm not supposed to say thanks, I will not be unappreciative and say what I'm not supposed to. Instead I'll tell you about the timing, okay? Last evening I learned that Bell had just beat me out of another \$2,391, with which I had been expecting to meet this year's obligations on my indebtedness, pay insurance, etc. So, the timing is perfect, for it means so much for people to be thoughtful. Especially when they are under stress and strain, including financial.

If I have been getting the same letters you have been writing Paul, then this one (4/13) may mystify him a bit because you did not tell him of Jimmy Lee's illness. I know Paul well. Neither this nor the truth, which he'd probably not want to know because he'd regard it as none of his business and possibly an embarrassment to you, will make any difference to him.

The cost of the plane trip is not only a better way to spend it than on doctors, it is probably better medicine, too!

The hasty note I wrote this a.m. and what you should have received by now should give you enough of Skolnick. For the moment, let us hope there is no special significance to the timing. I was not conscientious about this today, though, for I spent most of the day working outside, working up a real sweat, making hardly a dent in the work to be done, undertaking new chores when I have not finished the other, instead of tending to G. Before taking the step I plan I did want to talk to Bud, but he seems to have been out of their office most of the day. And if he phoned when he returned, I left to pick Lil up earlier than my usual leaving time for I couldn't resist getting the photograph back to see it. I will try and file a suit by mail. I have a special one, whether or not sanctioned by the stuffy ol' law, that should serve the immediate purpose - if it can be filed by mail and if it is accepted - and if it can get some attention. It is urgent the he be clearly identified as not a critic but an opportunist if not an agent.

I fear filing a viable suit against the Archives is not as simple as Skolnick makes it seem. Would you want to file any other kind? I have been holding off on some simply to try and be certain of everything, so that if the decision is against us, the record is not. But I am now laying the foundation for quite a number. This requires the exhausting of my administrative remedies and here they can (and have) waste time for me. No matter. We've plenty of that. Meanwhile, focus on the Archives is historical and factual distortion, even where they seem to be responsible for the suppression. I think in case case where they assume such responsibility do they do it without being ordered to. Therefore, I have, instead, zeroed in on those giving the orders. The next suit will be against them and Justice jointly. I'll be my own lawyer. Bud can do but so much and I want to be able to conduct the examinations myself. As soon as Mitchell rejects my appeal or when enough time has elapsed so I can claim he forfeited his right- which will

help build the kind of record that should be impressive in an honest court and to an honest press, neither of which can be anticipated, but which will make a very good record for the future, I'll be able to file it-for the raw materials of the panel. I have a fine collection of evidence for it. In strictest confidence, to be mentioned to nobody and not written about, I have named a new federal syndrome, the "Humes 'Burn-Baby-Burn'" syndrome. Like it?

Seriously, David could not qualify under the so-called "Freedom of Information" Act. Let us hope that by the time he can the need will not exist.

Meanwhile, the man who is as much a curse to decent conservatives and conservatism as he is to decency in government, Kleindienst, has written me that they have none of this! I have asked that he tell me where it has been deposited and he says nothing. Either he has been lied to or he knows, and I do look forward to subpoenaing him and letting him claim privilege-or answering questions. And I do have a hunch where they have hidden it, if it is not in Justice. By the way, the law, as described in the Justice memo to all Departments and Agencies, does require that they refer my request. If they chose to interpret the law otherwise today (and I've written asking for any change in directive, also unanswered *see what I mean by the required details?), I sure will subpoena you Good Ol' Texas boy who used to be Attorney General and issued these orders!

WON'T we have fun!

So, let David be a happy little boy, which is important to little boys and to the making of good men, and let those of us whose responsibility it is do what we must.

If only there were not the Skolnick's, and the others of whom I should not tell you, so I do not. If only we had enemies to fight!

However, do not take this as pessimism, for we have been accomplishing some impossibilities of which you will learn in time.

You know about the journey of a thousand miles.....

Best,